
APPENDIX A

GLOSSARY

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Accelerator Lane—Extra lane that permits drivers entering an expressway to accelerate to the speed of expressway traffic.

Accelerator—Pedal that controls the flow of fuel to the engine to regulate speed (stepping harder on the accelerator makes the car speed up).

Adverse Driving Conditions—Driving when it is more difficult because of weather, light, etc. Special precautions must be used.

Alternator—Device that produces the electricity to recharge the battery and operate electrical equipment in a vehicle.

Alternator Warning Light—Warning light or gauge on the instrument panel indicating the alternator is not making enough electricity and the battery is being used to run the vehicle.

Angle Parking—Parking a car diagonally to the curb.

Basic Speed Law—Law that states drivers should drive at a speed that is safe for traffic, roadway, visibility and vehicle conditions.

Battery—Electrical device used to start car. The battery connections must be kept clean to assure that a car will start.

Blind Spot—Area that rearview mirrors cannot show.

Blood-Alcohol Concentration (BAC)—Percentage of alcohol found in the bloodstream as measured by chemical tests of blood or urine.

Blood Test—A chemical test in which blood is taken from the driver's finger to determine the amount of alcohol that is in the driver's blood.

Blowout—Sudden loss of tire air pressure while driving.

Braking Distance—Distance traveled from the time the brakes are applied until the car is stopped.

Breathalyzer Test—A chemical test in which a driver blows into a machine to determine the amount of alcohol that is in the driver's system.

Cancellation of Driver's License—Driver's license is taken away for giving false information on an application, paying for a license with a check when you don't have money or when your parents withdrew their permission for you to drive. You need to take the tests over.

Carbon Monoxide—Colorless, odorless and poisonous gas found in the exhaust fumes of motor vehicles.

Class A License—A driver's license that will allow a driver to drive large truck and trailer combinations such as semis weighing in excess of 26,001 lbs., plus any car, truck or bus.

Class B License—A driver's license that will permit a driver to drive any large truck with GVW of 26,001 lbs., that does not pull a trailer (e.g., dump truck, cement truck) or trailers that do not weigh more than 10,000 lbs., or a bus.

Class C License—Are required for some vehicles carrying hazardous material and some buses carrying at least 16 or more people, including the driver.

Class D License—A driver's license that will allow a driver to drive a car, pickup truck, van, etc., and to pull a trailer that does not exceed 10,000 lbs.

Clutch Pedal—Pedal in a stickshift car that enables a driver to shift gears.

Collision—Contact between two or more objects, such as when two cars crash into each other.

Construction Area—Place where the road is being worked on. Drivers must watch out for workers and equipment.

Controlled-Access Highway—Expressway that permits vehicles to enter or leave only at an interchange.

Controlled Braking—Technique of applying the brakes to slow or stop quickly without locking the wheels.

Controlled Intersection—Intersection when traffic is regulated by traffic control signs or signals.

Coolant—Liquid that is put in radiator or coolant container to keep the engine cool while driving. Coolant can be water for summer driving or mixture of water and antifreeze to keep the engine from freezing in winter.

Covering the Brake—Putting the foot just above the brake pedal, ready to apply pressure if needed.

Deceleration—slowing car down.

Deceleration Lane—Extra lane that permits drivers leaving an expressway to slow down without obstructing traffic on the expressway.

Decide—Third step of the IPDE process in which the driver selects the best actions as well as when and where to take them to avoid conflicts.

Deductible—Amount a policyholder pays for damages in a collision to reduce the cost of the premium. The insurance company then pays the balance of the cost up to a specified limit.

Defensive Driving—Art of protecting yourself and others from dangerous and unexpected changes in the driving environment.

Depth Perception—Ability to judge distance between you and other objects.

Detour—A temporary road that is used to go around road construction.

Diamond-Shaped Sign—Yellow or orange four-sided sign (warning signs are diamond shaped).

Downshifting—Shifting from a higher to a lower gear.

Drive Belts—Black rubber devices used to power various types of electrical equipment in cars.

Drive Gear—Used for typical driving when car is equipped with an automatic transmission.

Driving Record—A folder that lists all traffic violations that a driver has committed. It is used by the courts and by insurance companies.

Driving Task—All the skilled actions a driver must take to drive safely.

Driving Under the Influence (DUI)—Level of intoxication in which a driver's blood-alcohol content is .08 percent and driving ability is reduced. A person may be charged with DUI if the test shows anything above .05 percent.

Duplicate License—A replacement driver's license that can be obtained if your license is lost.

Emergency Flasher—Device that flashes front turn signal lights and tail-lights to warn others there is a hazard.

Emotion—Strong feeling of any kind, such as joy, grief, fear, hate, love, anger and excitement.

Entrance Ramp—Ramp leading onto an expressway.

Escape Path—Place to go in case of unexpected conflict.

Execute—Fourth step of the IPDE process in which a driver performs proper car control responses to avoid possible conflicts.

Exit Ramp—Ramp leading off an expressway.

Field of Vision—All the area that a person can see while looking straight ahead.

Five-Sided Sign—Warn drivers about school zone where children may be.

Flashing Signal—Red or yellow traffic light that flashes on and off to indicate stop (red) or caution (yellow).

Four-Second Rule—A technique used to assure that a driver is far enough behind the vehicle he/she is following.

Four-Way Stop—Intersection that has a stop sign for cars coming from each direction. The car that gets to the intersection first, goes first, after stopping to be sure it is safe to go.

Gap—Distance a driver has between approaching cars in which to cross an intersection or join traffic.

Glare Recovery Time—Time required to regain clear vision after having been temporarily blinded by a strong light.

Guide Sign—A sign that gives direction, distances, services, points of interest and other information.

Habitual Offender—A driver who has had a number of serious driving offenses. After getting 30 conviction points, the driver could go to jail or pay a large fine.

Hand-Over-Hand Steering—Method of turning the steering wheel in which one hand pulls the steering wheel down while the other hand crosses over to pull the wheel farther down.

Hazardous Material—Dangerous materials such as gasoline, explosives, etc. Such material is frequently carried in tanker trucks.

Head Restraints—Padded devices on the back of car seats that are designed to prevent the vehicle occupant's head from snapping backward in a collision.

Highway Hypnosis—Dulled or drowsy, trancelike condition caused by concentration on the roadway ahead and monotony of driving.

Hydroplaning—Driving on a wet road when car moves on a thin film of water. Drivers can easily lose control of their vehicle when their car is hydroplaning.

Ignition Switch—Switch on the steering column, operated by a key, which starts or stops the engine.

Implied-Consent Law—State law providing that when a driver is granted a license, that driver agrees to take a chemical test for intoxication if arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol.

Intersection—Area where two or more streets or roads cross. Drivers must be especially careful at intersections because it may be difficult to see another vehicle coming from the side.

Interstate Highway—A highway that has two or more lanes going each direction and where cars can get on or off only at designated places.

Intoxicated—Under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Driving while intoxicated is a very dangerous and serious offense.

IPDE Process—Organized system of seeing, thinking and responding that includes the steps of identifying, predicting, deciding and executing.

Jack—Hand-operated device for lifting one corner of the car; generally used for changing a tire.

Lane Signal—Signal, usually overhead, that designates a lane can or cannot be used at a specific time.

Liability Insurance—Insurance coverage that pays for bodily injury and property damage to others in a collision caused by the insured.

Manslaughter—Accidental killing caused while driving.

Median Strip—Area that separates two-way traffic on a divided, multilane highway.

Merging Area—Stretch of roadway at the end of an acceleration lane on an expressway where cars join the flow of traffic.

Merging Traffic—Area where two roads or lanes join to go the same direction.

Minimum Speed Limit—Lowest legal speed a car may travel on certain roadways under good conditions to prevent wide differences in speed among vehicles.

Muffler—A device under the car to keep the car quiet. A leaky muffler can be noisy and dangerous because of poisonous fumes from the engine.

Narcotic Drug—A drug that may change the way a driver feels and acts.

Neutral Gear (N)—Used when car is not moving or when starting a car with a manual transmission.

Night Blindness—Condition of not being able to see well at night.

Octagon-Shaped Sign—A sign with eight sides. (The only octagon shaped sign is a stop sign.)

One-Way Street—Street on which all cars must go the same direction.

Orderly Visual Search Pattern—Process of searching or scanning critical areas in a regular sequence.

Overdriving Headlights—Driving at a speed in which the stopping distance exceeds the area lit by the headlights.

Over-The-Counter Drug (OTC Drug)—Drug that can be legally obtained without a doctor's prescription.

Parallel Parking—Parking with the car lined up parallel or going the same direction as the curb. When parallel parking, the car must be within 18 inches of the curb.

Parking Gear (P)—Gear used when leaving a car to help assure that it does not roll away.

Pedestrian—A person who is walking. Drivers must be especially careful of persons walking because they may be unpredictable.

Pedestrian Crosswalk—Area designated for persons to cross a street or road. Crosswalks are usually marked with lines crossing the street. Drivers must yield right of way to persons crossing in crosswalks.

Pedestrian Signal—Traffic signal or symbol or the use of pedestrians, usually reading **WALK** and **WAIT**, or **WALK** and **DON'T WALK**.

Perception Distance—Distance a car travels during the time a driver sees and identifies an object or situation ahead.

Perception Time—Time it takes a person to become aware of an object or situation ahead.

Perpendicular Parking—Parking at a right angle to the curb.

Point of No Return—Point beyond which a driver can no longer stop safely without entering the intersection.

Policy—Contract to agreement between a vehicle owner and an insurance company specifying the amount and type of insurance coverage for which a premium is paid.

Preventive Maintenance—Care given to a vehicle to keep mechanical problems from developing.

Probationary License—A temporary license that will only allow you to drive for specific purposes such as driving to school or work.

Radiator—Part of the cooling system in which the coolant that circulates around the engine is cooled by a current of air.

Reaction Distance—Distance the car travels during a driver's reaction time.

Reaction Time—Time it takes a driver to respond to a driving hazard once it has been identified.

Reckless Driving—Driving a vehicle in a very careless manner and endangering the lives of others.

Rectangle-Shaped Sign—Four-sided sign (regulatory signs). These signs inform you of traffic laws.

Reduce Speed Sign—Area where cars need to slow down because of some type of danger.

Reflexes—Automatic response of body to signal it receives.

Regulatory Sign—Sign that informs highway users of traffic laws or regulations and indicates requirements to perform in a certain manner.

Restraint Device—Device designed to hold a car occupant in the seat during a collision.

Reverse Gear (R)—Used when you want the car to go backwards.

Revocation of Driver's License—Removal of driver's license for at least 12 months for serious motor vehicle violations such as manslaughter, DUI, crimes, etc.

Riding the Brake—Driving with a foot on the brake pedal so that the brake lights remain on and the brakes are partially applied.

Riding the Clutch—Driving with the left foot resting lightly on the clutch pedal.

Right Turn on Red—Turning right after stop when the red signal is on unless specifically prohibited to turn.

Risk-Taking Behavior—Taking chances when the consequences can be dangerous.

Round Signs—Warn about railroad crossings.

Safe Path of Travel—Path that is free of hazards and conflict.

School Safety Patrol—Person designated by the school to assist children across busy intersections. School safety patrols often wear vests or special belts to show drivers their jobs. If a patrol holds up a sign to stop, the driver must stop.

School Zone—Portion of a street or highway near a school that is subject to special speed limits set by state law or local ordinance.

Selector Lever—Device in an automatic transmission car used to select forward or reverse gears.

Shift Indicator—Device on a car that shows the different driving gears and the one being used.

Sight Distance—Distance a person can see ahead.

Signaling—Showing other drivers what you plan to do by using special lights or arm movements.

Space Cushion—Open area all around a vehicle consisting of adequate following distance between it and the cars ahead and behind, plus swerve paths to left and right.

Suspension of Driver's License—A license is taken away for a serious driving offense (DUI, injury, crash, etc.) or for many violations. The license can be taken for 90 days, 6 months or 12 months.

Tailgating—Following a car too closely.

Total Stopping Distance—Total distance it takes to stop a vehicle. Total stopping distance includes perception distance, reaction distance and braking distance.

Traffic Control Device—Any light, sign or pavement marking that is used to tell drivers what to do.

Traffic Signal—Any signal or light used to control the movement of traffic.

Tread—Grooved surface of a tire that grips the roadway.

Triangle-Shaped Sign—Three-sided sign (yield right of way).

Uncontrolled Intersection—Intersection at which there are no traffic control signals, signs or roadway markings to regulate traffic.

Uncontrolled Railroad Crossing—Railroad crossing at which there are no signals or crossing gates.

Urine Test—A chemical test that uses the driver's urine to determine the amount of alcohol that is in the driver's system.

Vehicle Registration—A form that must be carried in your vehicle to prove who owns it, that it is licensed and that vehicle taxes have been paid.

Visibility—Being able to see objects that are in the driver's path.

Warning Sign—Yellow or orange sign with black symbols or lettering that informs drivers of possible danger ahead.

Warranty—Written guarantee that the seller will repair the car for a stated period of time.

Weaver—Person who moves their car back and forth between lanes. A weaver can often cause crashes.

Yield Right of Way—Allow another vehicle or roadway user to proceed first.